

TRAILS

A trail system spans the various habitats and ecosystems that exist at the Fernald Preserve.

The site's ongoing ecological restoration is being accomplished using native plants and grasses that were identified in an 1819 land survey of the area. The Fernald Preserve contains 400 acres of woodlots, 327 acres of prairies, 140 acres of open water and wetlands, and 33 acres of savanna.



walk through nature and time

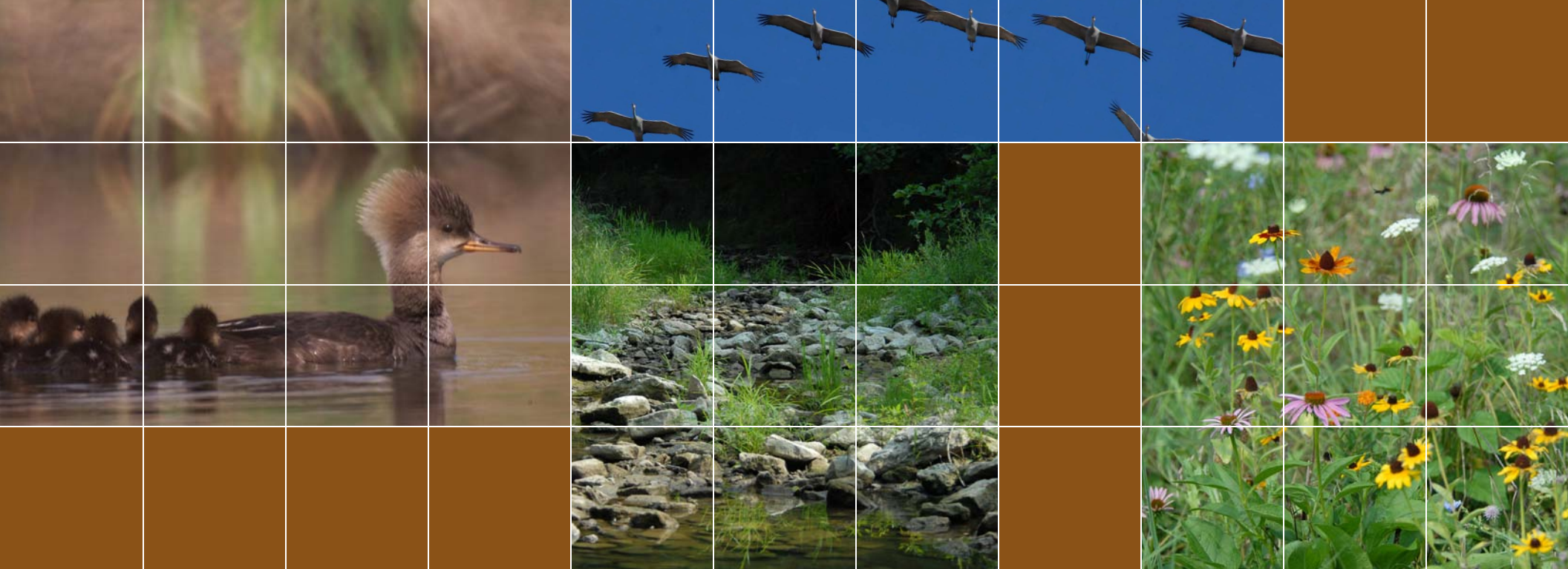
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Fernald Preserve



A network of trails is being developed to facilitate nature observation at the U.S. Department of Energy's Fernald Preserve. The trail system will span the various habitats and ecosystems that exist at the preserve.

The Fernald site is a former uranium-processing facility that has undergone a complete environmental cleanup to standards established by the site's neighbors and surrounding communities. These standards were approved by both the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies as being protective of human health and the environment.

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The trailhead for the 1.4-mile Lodge Pond Trail can be accessed at the Lodge Pond Observation Area off of the site access road. The trail winds around Lodge Pond and the adjoining grasslands and nearby small ponds. A diverse array of wildlife can be seen in this area. Deer, beaver, muskrat, mink, and a variety of turtles, frogs, and toads can be seen and heard. Depending on the season, dickcissels, bobolinks, meadowlarks, shore-birds, herons, waterfowl, and raptors can be viewed along this trail. This is also an excellent area for viewing butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies.

The 0.25-mile Weapons-to-Wetlands Trail recognizes the contributions made by the Fernald site and its employees during the Cold War years. The trail is wheelchair accessible and starts on the east side of the Visitors Center. The trail passes by the Weapons-to-Wetlands Grove and provides access to the Weapons-to-Wetlands Observation Area. This observation area is an excellent place for grassland birds and waterfowl.

The 0.1-mile Biowetland Trail provides access to the biowetland system that supports the Visitors Center. The biowetland treats all wastewater from the Visitors Center and is rapidly becoming a destination for area environmental educators and their classes.